

The NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALIST

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JOURNAL OF

THE NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS CLUB
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FOUNDER PRESIDENT: THE LATE DR. HUGO FLECKER.
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OBJECTS: THE FURTHERANCE OF THE STUDY OF THE VARIOUS
BRANCHES OF NATURAL HISTORY AND THE PRESERVATION OF
OUR HERITAGE OF INDIGENOUS FLORA AND FAUNA.

MEETINGS: SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 8PM AT THE
CAIRNS EDUCATION CENTRE, GREENSLOPES STREET, EDGEHILL
CAIRNS.

FIELD DAYS: SUNDAY BEFORE MEETING.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: (DUE SEPTEMBER 30TH).
CITY AND SUBURBAN MEMBERS \$8.00
COUNTRY MEMBERS & PENSIONERS \$5.00
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$10.00

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60th YEAR

NO. 192

JANUARY, 1992

Kauri Creek Field Trip
Tree families of Wongabel
Relief from the Stinging Tree
Short Stories
Believe it or not?

By: S. Kimmins	2
By: Forrestry Dept.	3 - 8
By: A. Magarry	9
By: D. Elsdon	9 - 10
By: E. Duignan	10

We sincerely apologise for the delay in getting this to you.
We trust there has been no inconvenience caused. (Editor).

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Post Office Box 991 Cairns Qld. 4870.



Queensland day-flying moth
Alcides zodiaca

KAURI CREEK - LAKE TINAROO - ATHERTON TABLELANDS.

By: S. Kimmins.

On July 7th, 1991, 27 members and guests enjoyed a field trip at Kauri Creek which flows into Lake Tinaroo. Owing to recent wet weather damage to Boar Pocket Road, access was via Tinaroo township. It was the first time in ages I'd seen the lacy veil of water flowing down the dam's face.

We chose the creekside walk where steps and footbridge were greatly appreciated. A pied cormorant flashed up and down the clear sandy bottomed stream and a brush turkey calmly foraged for food as the walkers went by. Warblers, fantails, lewen honeyeaters and a golden whistler were busy in the foliage. We could also hear a brown pigeon calling as we watched a female rifle bird jabbing her strong beak into hidden bark crevasses.

Most walkers completed the long walk, which meant a late lunch. Others who had returned to the park earlier had the company of a flock of currawongs. They weren't too proud to accept titbits from various lunch boxes.

Several species of duck and other water birds were on the lake so a telescope was set up for a closer look. Epiphytic ferns and *Dendrobium monophyllum* grew high on the trees. The red of a few paperbark satinash trees (*Eogenia bungatinnia*) showed clearly in the rainforest.

In all a very satisfying day. The bird list for day is as follows:

Australasian Grebe
Darter
Little Pied Cormorant
Little Black Cormorant
Great Egret
Cotton Pygmy Goose
Hardhead
Maned (Wood) Duck
Whistling Kite
Australian Brush Turkey
Brown Pigeon
Kookaburra
Forest Kingfisher
Grey Fantail
Willie Wagtail
Lewin's Honeyeater
Masked Lapwing

Bridled Honeyeater
Dusky Honeyeater
Spotted Pardalote
Silvereye
Large Billed Scrub Wren
Brown Warbler
Little Shrike Thrush
Red Browed Firetail
Red Backed Wren
Pale Yellow Robin
Magpie Lark
Pied Currawong
Victoria Rifle Bird

WONGABEL BOTANICAL WALK - ATHERTON TABLELANDS
(QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY ATHERTON)

Wongabel Botanical Walk is located 8km south of Atherton on the eastern side of the Kennedy Highway in the Wongabel State Forest. The walk is 2.6km in length. The following list has been compiled to assist in identification of rainforest trees by way of their family groups.

Legend:

ORDER, [literal meaning of family name], (common plants in family), (order followed by page number and genus in 'Flowering Plants in Australia'- Morley and Toelken.)

Family	Botanical name	Standard name	Location from track	Tree No.
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GYMNOSPERMS [seeds in cones]

Gymnosperms

Araucariaceae [] (Kauri pines, araucarias) {Gymnosperms 28} scaly, resinous bark horizontal branches.

<i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i>	Hoop pine	right	1m	180
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Podocarpaceae [] (Podocarps, Huon pine) {Gymnosperms 32}

<i>Prumnopitys amara</i>	Black pine	left	35m	190
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ANGIOSPERMS [flowers, seeds in fruit.]

Caryophyllales Dicot. jointed stems with undivided, leaves tubular flowers.

Nyctaginaceae [] (Bougainvilleas, chickweed, marvel-of-Peru) {Caryophyllales 70}

<i>Pisonia umbelliflora</i>	Cabbagewood	right	3m	149
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<i>Pisonia umbelliflora</i>	Cabbagewood	left	6m	154
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Celastrales

Celastraceae [hidden layers] (Staff-tree, spindles) {Celastrales 222}

<i>Siphonodon membranaceus</i>	Ivorywood	right	3m	119
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<i>Siphonodon membranaceus</i>	Ivorywood	right	1m	126
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Icacinaceae [] (Churnwood, brown beech, citronella) {Celastrales 222} closely related to Hollies, leaves smell of almonds when crushed- cyanogenic glycosides.

<i>Pennantia cunninghamii</i>	Brown beech	left	6m	170
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Cornales

Alangiaceae [] (Alangiums) {Cornales 214}

<i>Alangium villosum</i>	Canary muskheart	left	6m	84
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<i>Alangium villosum</i>	Canary muskheart	right	2m	117
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<i>Alangium villosum</i>	Canary muskheart	right	1m	123
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Araliaceae [] (Ivies, umbrella tree, closely related to carrot, parsley, celery) fleshy fruit, spirally arranged leaves, spike-like inflorescence.

{Cornales 215}

<i>Polyscias elegans</i>	Ivory basswood	right	2m	109
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Ebenales

Ebenaceae [] (Ebonies, persimmons) {Ebenales 115} timber, plants unisexual, edible fruits.

<i>Diospyros pentamera</i>	Grey persimmon	left	4m	96
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Sapotaceae [] (Star apples, gutta-percha) {Ebenales 116} timber, latex, edible fruit.

<i>Planchonella pohlmiana</i>	Yellow boxwood	right	3m	54
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Var. *astercaroon*



<i>Pouteria castanosperma</i>	Saffron boxwood	left	27m	65
<i>Chrysophyllum chartaceum</i>	Plum boxwood	left	8m	81
<i>Planchonella xerocarpa</i>	Blush coondoo	right	5m	120
<i>Planchonella obovoidea</i>	Northern yellow boxwood	right	3m	124
<i>Pouteria castanosperma</i>	Saffron boxwood	left	4m	129
<i>Planchonella obovoidea</i>	Northern yellow boxwood	left	35m	166

Euphorbiales Dicot. closely related to Malvales.

Euphorbiaceae [well carried](Caster-oil, spurges){Euphorbiales 129} flowers unisexual.

<i>Aleurites moluccana</i>	Candlenut	right	3m	12
<i>Aleurites moluccana</i>	Candlenut	left	4m	20
<i>Macaranga subdentata</i>	Macaranga	left	3m	55
<i>Fontainea picrosperma</i>		left	22m	61
<i>Fontainea picrosperma</i>		left	22m	62
<i>Mallotus philippensis</i>	Kamala	right	8m	76
<i>Mallotus mollissimus</i>	Kamala	right	6m	110
<i>Mallotus philippensis</i>	Kamala	right	m	115
<i>Mallotus polyadenos</i>	Kamala	right	1m	121
<i>Mallotus polyadenos</i>	Kamala	left	1m	136
<i>Aleurites moluccana</i>	Candlenut	left	5m	162
<i>Breynia stipitata</i>		left	2m	173
<i>Alchornea thozetiana</i>		left	20m	189

Fables Dicot. Five petals thus: 1 broad erect standard, 2 narrow wings 2 lower, keel over the stamens.

Leguminosae [pod] (Peas, beans, wattles){Fables 146}

<i>Castanospermum australe</i>	Black bean	left	3m	17
<i>Archidendron lucyi</i>		left	4m	51
<i>Archidendron lucyi</i>		left	30m	86
<i>Castanospermum australe</i>	Black bean	right	1m	108
<i>Pithecellobium pruinsum</i>	Tulip siris	left	12m	145
<i>Pithecellobium pruinsum</i>	Tulip siris	left	15m	158
<i>Castanospermum australe</i>	Black bean	left	3m	182

Gentianales

apocynaceae [free blue] (Periwinkles, oleanders, frangipani){Gentianales 249}milky latex flat hairy seeds, tube flowers, five petals.

* <i>Neisosperma poweri</i>		left	27m	64
* <i>Neisosperma poweri</i>		right	8m	114
<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>	White cheesewood	left	1m	138

* Not listed F.P.A.

Lamiales thin

Verbenaceae [](Teaks, verbenas){Lamiales 287} some Sp. give oil, edible fruit, gum, tannin.

<i>Vitex acuminata</i>	Vitex	left	4m	77
<i>Vitex acuminata</i>	Vitex	right	8m	125
<i>Gmelina fasciculiflora</i>	White beech	left	5m	151
<i>Gmelina fasciculiflora</i>	White beech	left	10m	163
<i>Gmelina fasciculiflora</i>	White beech	left	4m	172
<i>Gmelina fasciculiflora</i>	White beech	left	3m	186

Laurales

Lauraceae [](Laurels, Aust.walnuts, avacado){Laurales 42} leathery, minutely dotted leaves

<i>Endiandra palmerstonii</i>	Queensland wallnut	left	40m	1
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<i>Cryptocarya hypospodia</i>	Northern laurel	right	9m	14
<i>Cryptocarya mackinnoniana</i>	Rusty laurel	left	3m	39
<i>Endiandra sankeyana</i>	Sankey's walnut	left	2m	41
<i>Endiandra pubens</i>	Hairy walnut	left	5m	42
<i>Cryptocarya triplinervis</i>	Brown laurel	right	2m	46
<i>Litsea leefeana</i>	Bolly wood	left	10m	53
<i>Cryptocarya mackinnoniana</i>	Rusty laurel	left	10m	56
<i>Litsea glutinosa</i>	Bolly wood	right	6m	75
<i>Neolitsea dealbata</i>	Grey bollywood	left	2m	89
<i>Endiandra cowleyana</i>	Northern rose walnut	left	4m	98
<i>Endiandra longipedicellata</i>	Buff walnut	left	20m	101
<i>Cryptocarya triplinervis</i>	Brown laurel	right	2m	102
<i>Endiandra sankeyana</i>	Sankey's walnut	right	2m	113
<i>Endiandra coweyana</i>	North rose walnut	right	1m	131
<i>Endiandra muelleri</i>	Mueller's walnut	right	4m	132
<i>Litsea glutinosa</i>	Bolly wood	left	3m	146
<i>Endiandra cowleyana</i>	North rose walnut	left	9m	160
<i>Cryptocarya hypospodia</i>	Northern laurel	left	25m	165
<i>Cryptocarya hypospodia</i>	Northern laurel	left	5m	176
<i>Litsea glutinosa</i>	Bolly wood	left	2m	177
<i>Litsea leefeana</i>	Bolly wood	left	8m	178

Monimiaceae [] () {Laurales 39} opposite, simple, leathery toothed leaves.

* <i>Daphnandra repandula</i>	Northern sassafras	left	m	27
* <i>Doryphora aromatica</i>	Northern sassafras	left	8m	28
<i>Tetrasynandra laxiflora</i>	Tetra beech	right	2m	43
<i>Tetrasynandra laxiflora</i>	Tetra beech	right	2m	79
* <i>Daphnandra repandula</i>	Northern sassafras	left	1m	133
* <i>Doryphora aromatica</i>	Northern sassafras	right	1m	141
* <i>Daphnandra repandula</i>	Northern sassafras	left	12m	168
* <i>Daphnandra repandula</i>	Northern sassafras	left	9m	174

* F.P.A. Family Atherospermataceae (Aust. sassafras)

Magnoliales

Eupomatiaceae [well fruited] () {Magnoliales 34} fleshy, top-shaped, flat-topped 'berry'.

<i>Eupomatia laurina</i>	Eupomatia	left	3m	92
<i>Eupomatia laurina</i>	Eupomatia	left	20m	159

Myristicaceae [very many spots] (Nutmegs) {Magnoliales 36} nutmeg substute.

<i>Myristica insipida</i>	Nutmeg	left	8m	38
<i>Myristica insipida</i>	Nutmeg	left	1m	80
<i>Myristica insipida</i>	Nutmeg	right	2m	144

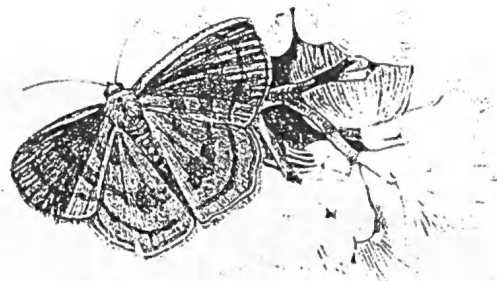
Malvales

Elaeocarpaceae [fruit] (Aristotelias) {Malvales 120} timber.

<i>Elaeocarpus angustifolius</i>	Silver Quandong	right	12m	69
<i>Elaeocarpus ruminatus</i>	Brown Quandong	left	5m	152
<i>Sloanea langii</i>	White carabeen	left	8m	156
<i>Elaeocarpus angustifolius</i>	Silver quandong	left	20m	184

Sterculiaceae [] (Kurrajongs, bottle trees) {Malvales 122} bark yeilds a fibre used by Abor

<i>Argyrodendron sp.</i>	Brown tulip oak	right	m	9
<i>Argyrodendron peralatum</i>	Red tulip oak	right	4m	32
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Flame kurrajong	left	8m	68
<i>Argyrodendron peralatum</i>	Red tulip oak	right	4m	87
<i>Firmiana papuana</i>	Kurrajong	right	1m	137
<i>Argyrodendron trifoliolatum</i>	Brown tulip oak	left	6m	179



Jewel-backed moth
Metalochlora tetralopha
on Bumpy satin-ash Syzygium cormiflorum

Myrtales

Myrtaceae [] (Gum trees, paper-barks, bottlebrushes, guavas) {Myrtales 175}

<i>Acmena resa</i>	Red eungella satinash	left	40m	2
<i>Rhodamnia sessiliflora</i>	Iron malletwood	right	3m	21
<i>Rhodomyrtus macrocarpa</i>	Finger cherry	left	5m	26
<i>Acmenosperma claviflorum</i>	Grey satinash	left	18m	37
<i>Syzygium cormiflorum</i>	Bumpy satinash	right	2m	45
<i>Rohomyrtus macrocarpa</i>	Finger cherry	left	19m	59
<i>Austromyrtus sp.</i>		left	8m	67
<i>Austromyrtus dallachiana</i>		right	10m	106
<i>Acmenosperma claviflorum</i>	Grey satinash	right	2m	107
<i>Pilidiostigma tropicum</i>		right	1m	135
<i>Xanthostemon whitei</i>	Red penda	left	3m	157

Polemoniales

Boraginaceae [] (Heliotropes, forget-me-nots) {Polemoniales 263}

* <i>Cordia dichotama</i>	Cordia	left	3m	140
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*F.P.A. listed as family Ehretiaceae 264

Ehretiaceae [] (Cordias, ehretias) {Polemoniales 264}

<i>Ehretia acuminata</i>	Silky ash	left	6m	48
<i>Ehretia acuminata</i>	Silky ash	left	1m	134

Proteales

Proteaceae [first family] (Waratahs, grevilleas, banksias) {Proteales 238}

<i>Oreocallis wickhamii</i>	Satin oak	right	m	7
<i>Oreocallis wickhamii</i>	Satin oak	left	30m	63
<i>Oreocallis wickhamii</i>	Satin oak	left	1m	71
<i>Oreocallis wickhamii</i>	White silky oak	left	18m	72
<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>	White silky oak	left	10m	97
<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>	Satin oak	left	25m	185
<i>Oreocallis wickhamii</i>				

Rutales

Anacardiaceae [upward heart] (Mango, sumac, pepper tree, cashew) {Rutales 190}

<i>Euroschinus falcata</i>	Pink poplar	right	2m	15
<i>Euroschinus falcata</i>	Pink poplar	left	20m	35

Blepharocaryaceae [fruit marginally fringed with hairs] (only 2 Sp. in fam.) {Rutales 19}

Note: contact with any part is hazardous causing intense skin irritation.				
<i>Blepharocarya involucrigera</i>	Rose butternut	left	40m	3
<i>Blepharocarya involucrigera</i>	Rose butternut	right	8m	5

Burseraceae [] (Frankincense, myrrh) {Rutales 191}

<i>Canarium muelleri</i>	Scrub turpentine	left	25m	169
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Flindersiaceae [] (sub family of Rutaceae, citrus, native fuchias) {Rutales 194}

inged seeds, woody fruits.				
<i>Flindersia schottiana</i>	Northern silver ash	left	m	6
<i>Flindersia schottiana</i>	Northern silver ash	left	4m	11
<i>Flindersia schottiana</i>	Queensland maple	right	8m	16
<i>Flindersia brayleyana</i>	Northern silver ash	left	18m	57
<i>Flindersia schottiana</i>	Queensland maple	left	18m	58
<i>Flindersia brayleyana</i>	Queensland maple	left	15m	103
<i>Flindersia brayleyana</i>	Queensland maple	left	3m	128
<i>Flindersia brayleyana</i>	Queensland maple	left	5m	153
<i>Flindersia brayleyana</i>	Northern silver ash	left	10m	188
<i>Flindersia schottiana</i>				

underbark smells strongly of onions or similar pungent odour.

<i>Melia azedarach australasica</i>	White cedar	right	m	4
<i>Toona australis</i>	Red cedar	right	4m	10
<i>Toona australis</i>	Red cedar	left	4m	13
<i>Aglaia sapindina</i>		left	8m	19
<i>Pseudocarapa nitidula</i>	Incensewood	left	12m	34
<i>Dysoxylum pettigrewianum</i>	Spur mahogany	left	12m	36
<i>Toona australis</i>	Red cedar	left	5m	40
<i>Aglaia sapindina</i>		right	2m	44
<i>Dysoxylum pettigrewianum</i>	Spur mahogany	left	3m	50
<i>Pseudocarapa nitidula</i>	Incensewood	left	8m	66
<i>Dysoxylum cerebriforme</i>	Miva mahogany	left	3m	91
<i>Melia azedarach Australasica</i>	White cedar	left	8m	94
<i>Dysoxylum muelleri</i>	Miva mahogany	right	4m	100
<i>Pseudocarapa nitidula</i>	Incensewood	right	3m	118
<i>Aglaia ferruginea</i>		right	2m	127
<i>Dysoxylum micranthum</i>	Spicy mahogany	right	9m	139
<i>Dysoxylum oppositifolium</i>	Pink mahogany	left	5m	147
<i>Dysoxylum schiffneri</i>	Yellow mahogany	right	4m	148
<i>Dysoxylum schiffneri</i>	Yellow mahogany	left	6m	161
<i>Dysoxylum pettigrewianum</i>	Spur mahogany	left	4m	171
<i>Dysoxylum cerebriforme</i>	Miva Mahogany	left	9m	175
<i>Toona australis</i>	Red cedar	left	8m	183

Rutaceae [red, reddish-orange] (Citrus, native fuchias) {Rutales 194} strongly sented.

<i>Euodia bonwickii</i>	Yellow evodia	left	8m	18
<i>Zanthoxylum veneficum</i>	Thorny yellowwood	left	3m	23
<i>Acronychia acidula</i>	Lemon aspen	left	9m	33
<i>Euodia haplophylla</i>	Yellow aspen	right	2m	47
<i>Geijera salicifolia</i>	Green satinheart	left	m	49
<i>Acronychia acidula</i>	Lemon aspen	left	22m	60
<i>Zanthoxylum veneficum</i>	Thorny Yellowwood	left	4m	78
<i>Euodia bonwickii</i>	Yellow evodia	left	4m	88
<i>Euodia haplophylla</i>	Yellow aspen	right	15m	112
<i>Zanthoxylum ovalifolium</i>		left	3m	150

Simaroubaceae [] (Tree of heaven) {Rutales 191} bitter bark bright yellow flowers.

<i>Guilfoylia monostylis</i>	Scrub ooline	left	1m	122
<i>Guilfoylia monostylis</i>	Scrub ooline	left	30m	167

Sapindales

Sapindaceae [saponin-a soap substute] (Hop bushes, lychee) {Sapindales 200}

<i>Castanospora alphanthii</i>	Brown tamarind	right	m	24
<i>Diploglottis diphyllostegia</i>	Tamarind	left	8m	52
<i>Diploglottis diphyllostegia</i>	Tamarind	left	2m	70
<i>Mishocarpus grandissimus</i>		left	18m	73
<i>Castanospora alphanthii</i>	Brown tamarind	left	2m	83
<i>Arytera divaricata</i>	Rose tamarind	right	2m	99
<i>Toechema erythrocarpum</i>	Pink tamarind	right	4m	116
<i>Castanospora alphanthii</i>	Brown tamarind	right	7m	142

Saxifragales

Pittosporaceae [] (Native frangipani) {Saxifragales 138} Garden Sp. resin in leaves and other parts gives a characteristic smell when crushed.

<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native frangipani	left	30m	164
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Theales

Ternstroemiaceae [leaf shaped -] (Tea, camellias) {Theales 89}

Only Sp. of Fam. in Aust. Single unisexual flowers, large globular fruits with bright orange leathery wall, seeds with red coat, leaves and/or bark used as fish poison by Abor. by scattering on the surface.

* <i>Ternstroemia cherryi</i>	Cherry beech	left	30m	85
* <i>Ternstroemia cherryi</i>	Cherry beech	left	10m	130
* <i>Ternstroemia cherryi</i>	Cherry beech	right	15m	143

*F.P.A.- Family Theaceae, Sub Fam. Ternstroemiodeae

Thymelaeales

Thymelaeaceae [] (Daphnes, pimeleas) {Thymelaeales 135}

<i>Phaleria clerodendron</i>	left	4m	22
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Urticales

Moraceae [humas family] (Figs, mulberries) {Urticales 61} milky juice, usually edible fruit.

<i>Ficus watkinsiana</i>	Figwood	right	8m	74
<i>Ficus watkinsiana</i>	Figwood	right	5m	90
<i>Ficus leptoclada</i>	Figwood	left	10m	95
<i>Ficus superba</i>		right	6m	105

Ulmaceae [] (Elms, poison, or native peach) {Urticales 60} simple, spirally arranged leaves, lateral veins give appearance of three veined leaves, flowers in axil of leaves.

<i>Aphananthe philippinensis</i>	Grey handlewood	right	m	8
<i>Celtis paniculata</i>	Silky celtis	left	9m	82
<i>Aphananthe philippinensis</i>	Grey handlewood	right	4m	104
<i>Celtis paniculata</i>	Silky celtis	right	2m	111
<i>Celtis paniculata</i>	Silky celtis	right	6m	155
<i>Trema orientalis</i>	Peach cedar	right	5m	187

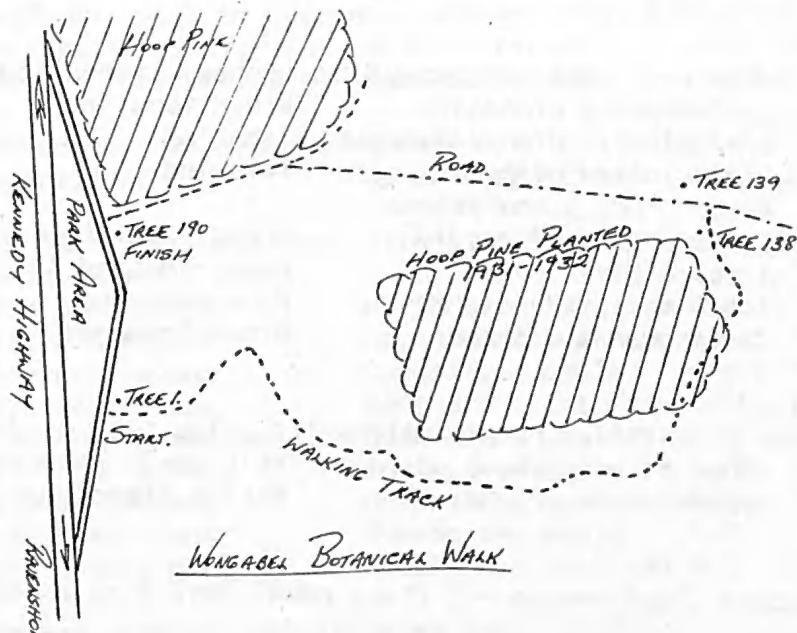
Urticaceae [] (Nettles) {Urticales 65} often have stinging hairs, leaves usually toothed or serrate, 3 to 5 veins from base, flowers in axil of leaf. The stinging hairs are impregnated with silica and on handling the tip breaks off leaving a sharp edge which will penetrate the skin like the point of a syringe. Strong irritation results.

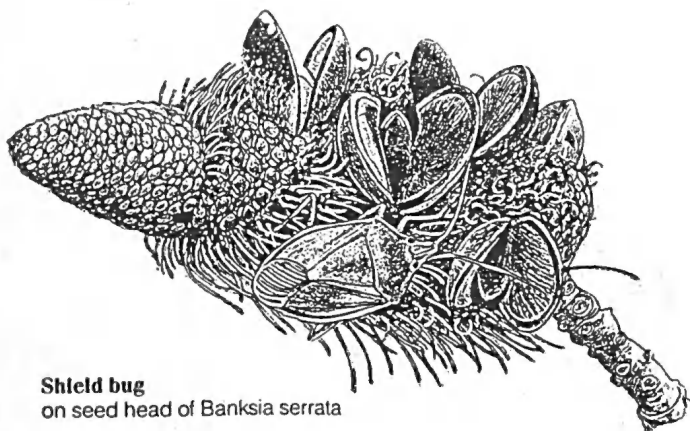
<i>Dendrocnide photinophylla</i>	Shining-leaved stinging tree	left	3m	25
"	"	right	3m	31
<i>Pipturus argenteus</i>		left	5m	181

Violales [viola, violet]

Flacourtaceae [] (Azaras, chaulmoogra oil) {Violales 92}

<i>Casearia dallachii</i>	Silver birch	left	2m	93
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Shield bug
on seed head of *Banksia serrata*

RELIEF FROM THE STINGING TREE.

By: Arnold Magarry.

After reading the last newsletter from the Queensland Naturalists Club on the report of Paxyl Spray being used to relieve pain caused by the Stinging Tree (*Dendrocnide moroides*), I was unfortunate enough to come into contact with this plant on one of our Club outings several days later.

Having been stung on the hand some years ago, I suffered intense stinging each time my hand came into contact with water for three to four weeks. On this occasion the sting occurred on the same hand. That evening I decided to try the spray 'Paxyl' which is used mainly for the relief of sunburn.

Upon spraying the liquid liberally on the affected area the sting intensified for several minutes after which I definitely felt relief. Each time I sprayed the stinging intensified. After two days of application the stinging was gone except for an area on the inside of one of my fingers about the size of a ten cent piece. After the sixth day of application this too had disappeared.

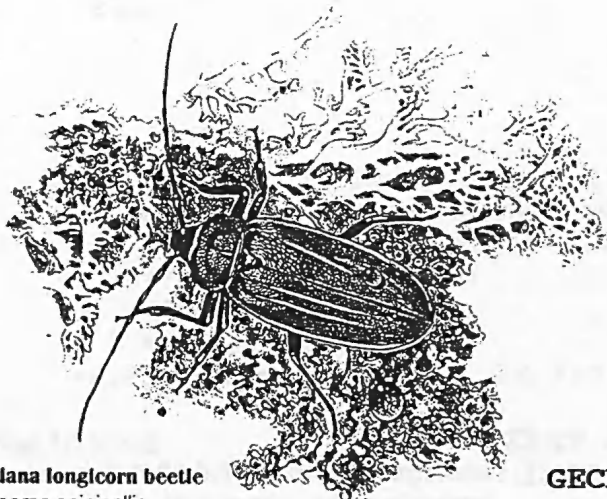
During the use of the spray I found that after the second day, upon rising in the morning, the back of my hand, mainly around the knuckles, would be numb. On moving about it became very itchy. In total, I used the spray for eight days during the two weeks after having been stung. The second week I received several stings like a single needle being pushed into the skin.

This was my experience with the stinging tree. It may affect others differently, but, in my case, the spray was most definitely beneficial. After two weeks I was able to forget about the sting completely. I will most certainly include this spray in our First Aid kit for future rainforest walks.

TWITCHERS BEWARE.

By: D. Elsdon.

The call coming through the misty rain was definitely that of the Varied Triller (*Lalage leucomela*) and we watched with fascination for quite some time. Reason? The bird making the call was in fact a Spangled Drongo (*Dicrurus megarhynchus*).



Poliniana longicorn beetle
Agrionome spinicollis

GECKO RELISHED.

By: D. Elsdon.

On hearing a noise in the adjoining room one night, Dawn calmly set out to investigate. There, on a slightly askew picture frame, sat a large green tree frog with half a gecko protruding from his mouth. While Dawn watched, the frog finished off his meal with obvious relish.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT? By: E. Duignan (Editor).

Prior to my moving back to Cairns ten years ago, I lived on a cattle property named Frensham, some 180km south of Julia Creek. During the many years spent in the outback as governess, I had heard numerous tall stories told around the camp fire, some of which make my hair stand on end even today. I can assure you, however, that the story you're about to read is quite true.

It was during the great floods of 1974 when all the Gulf Rivers joined up. The general average yearly rainfall was around 13 ins. for that particular area. We were receiving around 15 ins per day. It was phenomenal. As the water rose around us we set about getting ready to climb onto the roof. There had never been rising water anywhere near the homestead before.

In the weeks that followed, with the water and rain having subsided, we discovered that our food supplies were almost gone. There was no wild life to be seen, nor a stray beast of any kind. We did not have the heart to shoot a pair of galah's that had hovered round us for the duration.

We noticed the storm clouds building up again. Black and lofty. Rolling towards us over the wide open plain. It seemed to be turning a dark, dank green. Suddenly, once more, the sky opened up. Down came the rain, and down came the fish. What! - yes - it was raining fish. Small ones, but fish. We ran and gathered up as many as we possibly could in whatever container we could find before the deluge washed them away. We had enough to last us three days. Would you believe, on the third day the army helicopters arrived with food supplies. One of the food drops we never found as the ground had turned to mud.

As to the fish. They were delicious!

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